

Chapter 2

POPULATION

HISTORIC POPULATION

Grant County's population growth throughout the 1990's has been described as "explosive". This descriptive term is apt. While historically the population has undergone an ebb and flow, over the last ten years, Grant County has ranked as one of the fastest growing counties in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This growth was one of the main areas of focus in the 1996 Comprehensive Plan and should be in this update as well. Understanding population growth is of paramount importance in developing any plan for serving the community with good roads, quality schools, public water and other services that provide for a healthy community.

It is necessary to examine historic population trends for an area to understand future projections. Figure 2-1 shows the change in population in Grant County from 1900 to 1990 and projected populations for the years 2000 to 2020. The accompanying chart shows the population and rate of change in population for the same periods. Grant County experienced a period of declining population from 1900 until 1960. For most of this period the decline in population was very gradual with a net lose of 1,092 persons in the fifty-year period from 1910 to 1960. Grant County grew moderately (5.4 percent) from 1960 to 1970. Population growth then accelerated 33.1 percent during the 1980's and continued at a rapid pace of 18.3 percent from 1980 to 1990. The county had a 1990 population of 15,737. The 1992 population estimate for the county is 16,896, a 7.4 percent increase since 1990. Grant County was the sixth fastest growing county in Kentucky during this period. The state overall only grew 1.9 percent in population for the same period. The 1994 census population estimate for Grant County is 18,013, an increase of 14.5 percent over the 1990 census population. Extending this data on for the next five-year period, the growth rate has continued to move at a 3% per year clip, again, one of the fastest rates in Kentucky. The 1999 population estimate for all of Grant County is 20,805.

While the unincorporated areas of Grant County have recorded the highest rate of growth in recent years, the growth in cities is overcoming this trend. The 1990 population of 10,240 was at the time two thirds of the population of the entire county. The 1998 population of 12,786 is a 24.9% increase, but shows that the 60% of the population now in unincorporated areas is a declining rate. This reflects an effective policy of directing growth into areas with established infrastructure to accommodate the population growth.

The growth patterns of Grant County's four cities have been varied as shown in Figure 2-2. Williamstown, a fifth class city, is the county's largest city and the county seat. Williamstown has experienced continued growth with no periods of population decline. This growth in the city has come from persons from rural areas moving into the city as well as through annexation of additional land area. The growth within Grant County has been in a north to south pattern as population has come from the northern Kentucky region's growth in employment. From 1990 to 1998 Williamstown has grown from a population of 3,040 to 3,523, a 16% increase, less than the county as a whole. The second largest city in the county is Dry Ridge, a fifth class city with a 1990 population of 1,603. Although Dry Ridge experienced a decline in population from 1910 to 1930, the city has grown rapidly since then. This growth has continued in recent years with a 28.2 percent increase in population from 1980 to 1990. The 1998 population of 1,972 reflects growth of 23.2% from 1990 to 1998.

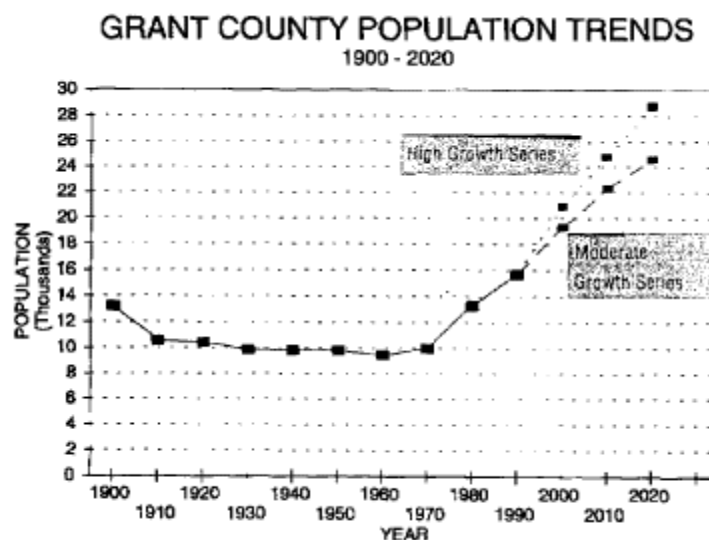
Crittenden is a fifth class city located at the north end of Grant County. Crittenden had alternating periods of growth and declines in population from 1910 to 1960. The city then began a period of rapid growth, doubling in population from 1970 to 1990. The city, although

growing, is still relatively small with a 1990 population of 756 persons. The growth during the nineties has been greatest in Grant County's northern most city. From the 1990 population of 756, Crittenden has grown to 1,919, an increase of 162%. This reflects the overall north to south pattern described earlier. Corinth, a sixth class city, is the county's smallest city with a 1990 population of 130. While the 1998 census figures shows a population of 147, this figure has held steady for the past four years. Corinth's population has experienced alternating periods of growth and decline since 1910. The city's largest population was 287 persons in 1950. Unlike the county's other three cities, Corinth has not annexed large land areas. The city has therefore not benefited from the growth in nearby areas such as around Corinth Lake. During the period from 1980 to 1990, Corinth experienced a 47.8 percent decrease in population. However, it is important to note that the city is in the process of annexing property west and east of the current city limits. It should be noted that the annexation effort failed by referendum in 1996, although there are still positive growth factors in place for the southern portion of the county.

Other sources of demographic data paint basically the same picture of growth for the county overall; the differences are in the distribution of the population within the county. As measured by the number of households with utility services, Williamstown has a population of just over 3,000, and is still the largest city in the county. Crittenden, however, is shown to have a population of almost 700 persons more than Dry Ridge. While the census figures have shown a trend toward faster growth in Crittenden, it has shown Dry Ridge as having the larger population. This disparity in the two sources of information can be explained by the annexation of new subdivisions in Crittenden, while Dry Ridge has had growth just outside its reach. The census has been unable to reflect this in years between the 10-year census, while the utilities provide a very up to date look at growth patterns.

While these figures from utility services may represent a more detailed breakdown of population and distribution of residential growth in the county, these figures cannot replace the census for future growth projections. State and federal programs depend upon the census for information in making decisions concerning their programs and implementation.

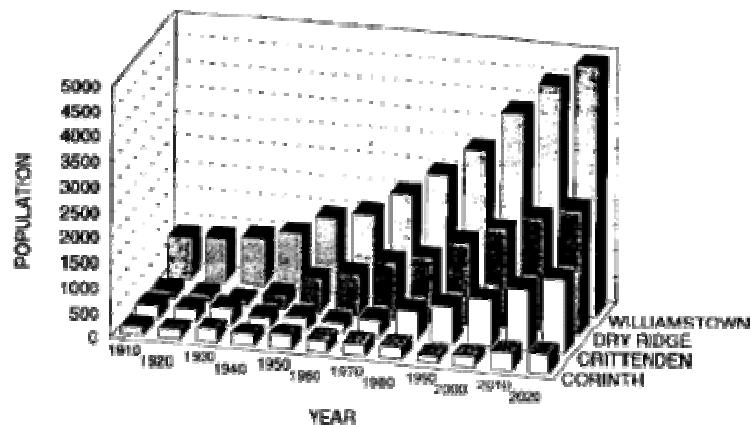
Figure 2-1



Grant County			High Growth		Grant County		2001 updated figures
Moderate Growth					Actual	Projections	% change
Year	Population	% change*	Projections	% change			
1900	13,239	---					
1910	10,581	-20.1%					
1920	10,434	-1.4%					
1930	9,876	-5.3%					
1940	9,854	-0.2%					
1950	9,809	-.05%					
1960	9,489	-3.3%					
1970	9,999	5.4%					
1980	13,308	33.1%					
1990	15,737	18.3%					
2000	19,306	22.7%	20,911	32.9%	20,805 for 1999		32.2%
2010	22,318	15.6%	24,826	18.7%		25,486	18.7%
2020	24,595	10.2%	28,715	15.7%		29,487	15.7%
source: 1900-1990 U.S. Census Bureau, 2000-2020 Urban Studies Center Estimates							
*Moderate Growth Series Pop. Projections							

Figure 2-2

CITY POPULATION TRENDS GRANT COUNTY 1900 - 2020



1998 population data shown in parentheses

	Williamstown		Dry Ridge		Crittenden		Corinth	
Year	Population	% change	Population	% change	Population	% change	Population	% change
1910	800	---	143	--	252	--	189	--
1920	836	4.5%	129	-9.8%	241	-4.4%	185	-2.1%
1930	917	9.7%	97	-24.8%	328	36.1%	265	43.2%
1940	1,077	17.4%	257	164.9%	210	-36.0%	232	-12.5%
1950	1,466	36.1%	640	149.0%	283	34.8%	287	23.7%

1960	1,611	9.9%	802	25.3%	238	-15.9%	238	-17.1%
1970	2,060	28.1%	1,100	37.2%	359	50.8%	236	-0.8%
1980	2,502	21.3%	1,250	13.6%	597	66.3%	249	5.5%
1990	3,040	21.5%	1,603	28.2%	756	26.6%	130	-47.8%
2000	3,861(3,523)	27.0% (16%)	1,931(1,972)	20.5% (23.2%)	965(1,919)	27.6% (162%)	193(147)	48.5% (13%)
2010	4,464(4073)	15.6%	2,232(2280)	15.6%	1,227(2441)	27.2%	335(254)	73.6%
2020	4,919(4488)	10.2%	2,460(2512)	10.2%	1,476(2936)	20.3%	369(280)	10.1%
Source: 1900-1990 U.S. Census Bureau, 2000-2020 Ky State Data Center Projection (Moderate Growth)								

FUTURE PROJECTIONS

Projecting future growth in population is done by studying historical growth and assessing factors in the present that affect growth. These factors are, by and large, economic. Therefore a change in the overall economy can have a large impact on the growth of Grant County. The projections made in the 1995 study by the University of Louisville have been borne out by the recent updates in census data. For the most part the High Growth Series has been correct for the past five-year period. The newest studies hold for the same projections as were made in 1995. Breakdowns in census data by cohort occurs every ten years in the decennial census. This data presently exists only for the 1990 census and the breakdowns of the 2000 census will not be available for this Plan update. Therefore, the existing growth projections and population characteristics data will be carried over for the present update of the Comprehensive Plan for Grant County.

Population projections for Grant County are also shown on Figure 2-1. These projections are from the Kentucky State Data Center located at the University of Louisville as published in *How Many Kentuckians: Population Forecasts 1990-2020*, 1995 Edition. They represent the latest official population forecasts for Kentucky. These forecasts are based on a cohort-component method. For each county, assumptions for future births, deaths and migration are derived from recent demographic trends by age, gender and white and non-white racial groups. These forecasts use a "bottom up" approach in which county populations are projected independently.

These population projections have been released in three series, the Baseline Series and Moderate Growth Series and the High Growth Series. They differ in the net migration rates used to project the future impact of migration on county populations. The Baseline Series uses average annual net migration rates from 1980 to 1990 to project growth. The Moderate Growth Series reduces negative net migration rates so that statewide net migration is approximately zero. The High Growth Series was published in 1995 and is based on the 1994 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. This series projects the 1990 to 1994 trends and assumes that longevity increases in the future. Since 1990 Kentucky has been gaining more migrants than have left, a reversal of the net out migration of the 1980's. The High Growth Series assumes net immigration for the state, as a whole, based on recent county trends. Figure 2-1 shows population projections for Grant County using both the Moderate Growth Series and High Growth Series.

As can be seen on Figure 2-1, Grant County's population is projected to continue to grow over the next thirty years. The population is expected to increase rapidly until the year 2000 and then continue to grow at a slower rate. Grant County is being influenced by the rapid growth occurring in Boone County to the north and Scott County to the south. Boone County is currently the second fastest growing county in Kentucky and Scott County is also among the top ten counties in terms of growth. Interstate 75 allows Grant County residents easy access to jobs in these two counties and other nearby counties. With the recent decision of Toyota to locate their North American Headquarters in Boone County within the next year, it is likely that many

persons who are moving to the area for jobs choose to live in Grant County due to lower housing costs, less traffic congestion and the rural atmosphere.

Grant County population trends are influenced by the same trends affecting the United States overall as well as much of western civilization. We are entering a period of low overall population growth. The birth rate is substantially lower than in earlier periods. Although the death rate has declined, more deaths are occurring, as there are more elderly persons in the population. As a result, the number of deaths is approaching the number of births. In Kentucky, the birth rate is lower than the national average and the death rate is higher than the national average. It is projected that by the year 2010, the number of deaths in Kentucky will exceed the number of births. This also means that migration has become a more important factor in population projections. From 1980 to 1990, Grant County had 2,169 births and 1,394 deaths and a net migration of 1,654 or 12.4 percent. This means that 68.1 percent of Grant County's net population growth for the period can be attributed to migration into the county.

The State Data Center does not issue population projections for cities. City populations are projected as a proportion of county population using the Moderate Growth Series projections. Williamstown's population was 20.6 percent of the county's population in 1970, 18.8 percent in 1980 and 19.3 percent in 1990. Future projections for Williamstown are shown in Figure 2-2 and assume the city will account for twenty percent of the county's population in the future. Likewise, Dry Ridge accounted for 11.0 percent of the county in 1970, 9.4 percent in 1980 and 10.2 percent in 1990. Therefore, future projections assume that ten percent of the county's population will live in Dry Ridge.

Crittenden residents were 3.6 percent of the county population in 1970, 4.5 percent in 1980 and 4.8 percent in 1990. Due to developmental pressures in Crittenden it is assumed that the population will continue to slowly increase as a percentage of the county's population. Future projections assume that Crittenden will account for 5.0 percent of the county population in 2000, 5.5 percent in 2010 and 6.0 percent in 2020. Corinth accounted for 2.4 percent of the county's population in 1970, 1.9 percent in 1980 and 0.8 percent in 1990. Due to the expected increase in the county's population and the fact that a sewage collection and treatment system has recently been constructed in Corinth, it is projected that the city's population will begin to grow again. Population projections assume that Corinth will be 1.0 percent of the county population in 2000 and 1.5 percent thereafter. This rate may increase if the City of Corinth is successful in annexing properties to the east and west of current city limits.

There is additional information that has been submitted to the planning commission that relates to population. The engineering firm of Hicks and Mann has maintained a database of various types of utility hookups for the cities in Grant County. These figures are very interesting in that they do more than confirm the trends shown by the census data. These figures indicate that Crittenden has already surpassed Dry Ridge in population, and seems to be rapidly gaining on Williamstown.

These estimates come from data collected on Sewer tap ons for Crittenden, and water tap ons for Dry Ridge. They are multiplied by a factor, for the numbers of persons per household for each city. This would give a population figure for each city. While this technique may in fact give a very good estimate of population, regional, state and federal funding is based upon the census count. For planning purposes, census counts should be used, although additional data, such as this, will be included as part of the research data for projections .

AGE AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS

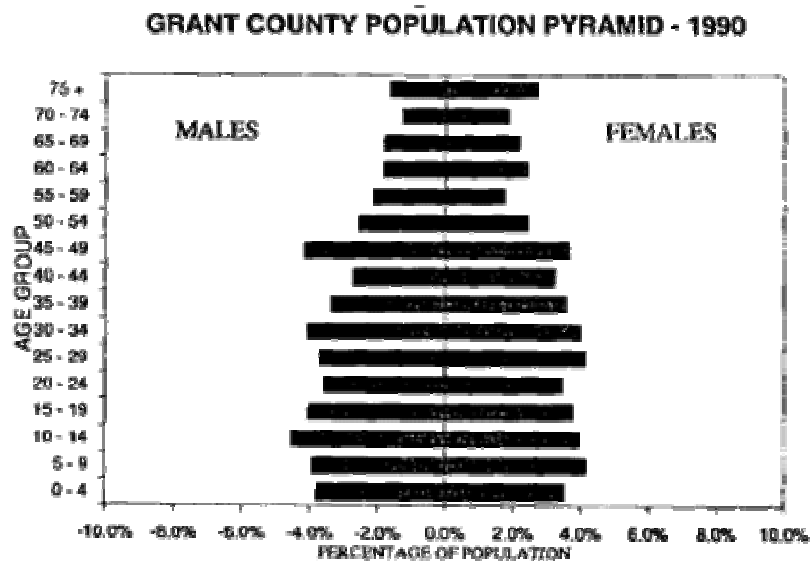
Figure 2-3 shows the population pyramid for Grant County in 1990. A population pyramid shows the proportion of a population by sex and by age group. Age groups are broken down into five-year increments up to age 74. Those 75 years and older are typically shown as one group. A population pyramid for a growing population is in the shape of a true pyramid, wide on the

bottom and tapering smaller at the top. A large base of young and working age persons support a smaller number of elderly persons. An inverted pyramid, with fewer young persons than older persons, indicates that the population is declining. The pyramid for Grant County shows that the proportion of elderly persons in the population is relatively high and the proportion of young persons is somewhat low. This suggests that without immigration into the county the population would remain static or decline.

There are normally slightly more females than males in the population overall. In 1990 for example, 48.4 percent of Kentucky's population were male and 51.6 percent were female. Grant County's population is somewhat more evenly divided with 49.2 percent of the population male and 50.8 percent female.

The trend towards an older population is also evident in Figure 2-4, which shows Grant County's current and projected population by age group. The three age groups shown represent the school age population, the workforce age population and the retired age population. In Grant County, all three groups are expected to continue to grow. The number of school age children will continue to increase suggesting that additional schools will be needed as overcrowding is already a problem. The number of persons 65 years and older is also steadily increasing. In 1990, there were 1,811 persons who were 65 years or older. This number is expected to grow to 2,921 by 2010 and 3,954 by 2020, which indicates that the demand for elderly housing and services will continue to increase.

Figure 2-3

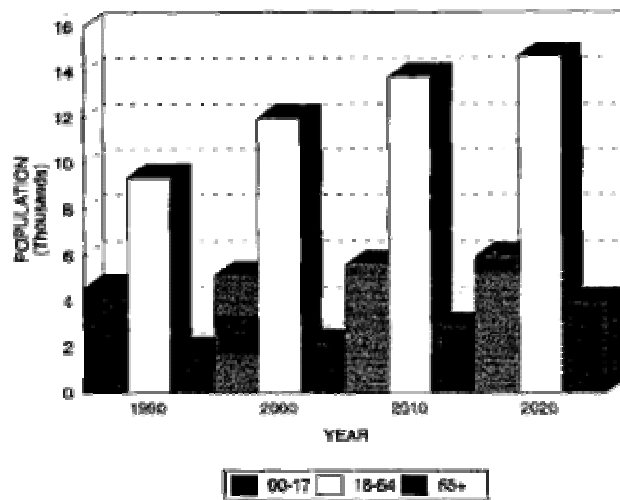


Age group	% male	% female	males	females
0-4	3.8	3.5	599	555
5-9	3.9	4.2	620	655
10-14	4.5	4.0	714	622
15-19	4.1	3.8	638	595
20-24	3.6	3.4	562	542
25-29	3.7	4.1	581	652
30-34	4.1	4.0	645	625
35-39	3.3	3.6	525	562

40-44	2.7	3.2	431	511
45-49	4.1	3.6	652	573
50-54	2.6	2.4	403	384
55-59	2.1	1.7	336	270
60-64	1.8	2.4	286	377
65-69	1.8	2.2	285	342
70-74	1.3	1.9	203	298
75+	1.6	2.8	259	435
Totals	49.2	50.8	7,739	7,998
			Total Population	15,737

Figure 2-4

GRANT COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE GROUP



Age	1990	2000	2010	2020
00-17	4,558	5,139	5,599	5,949
18-64	9,368	11,998	13,798	14,693
65+	1,811	2,169*	2,921	3,954
Total	15,737	19,306	22,318	24,596
Source: How Many Kentuckians: Population Forecasts 1990-2020				

MINORITY POPULATIONS

The majority of citizens (99.85%) living in Grant County in 1990 were white. There were only 13 blacks in the county out of a population of 15,737 accounting for only 0.08 percent of the population. This compares with a state population which is 7.7 percent black. Ten of the thirteen blacks in Grant County live in Williamstown. The remaining three live in Dry Ridge. All eight American Indians live in Williamstown. Crittenden and Corinth had no minorities in 1990.

American Indians make up only 0.05 percent of the population (8 persons). Remaining races account for 0.01 percent of the population (2 persons). There were only twelve persons of Hispanic origin in Grant County in 1990. All lived outside of city limits in the rural portions of the county.

Grant County has experienced an increase in the number of minorities since the 1990 Census. For this reason, the enrollment of minority students in each school district was verified. The enrollment for the Williamstown Independent School System showed that five Indian, four Hispanic, three Mixed Race and one Philippine students. The Grant County School System had enrollment of five Black, three Hispanic and two Asian students.

Minority populations are expected to increase as a percentage of the United States population overall. As a high level of migration into Grant County is anticipated for the foreseeable future, it can be expected that minority populations in Grant County will increase somewhat in the future.